



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ILLINOIS FIELD OFFICE

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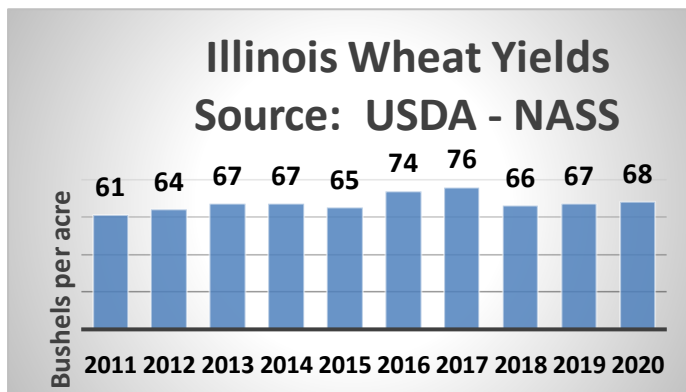
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USDA-NASS to Forecast Winter Wheat Yields

Springfield, IL – In March, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) surveyed producers and published an estimate of 700,000 acres of wheat planted in Illinois. Beginning May 10, and continuing through mid-August, NASS will publish a series of monthly crop reports that forecast the average wheat yield per acre in the state. Questionnaires will be mailed to producers in late April for the May Crop Production report.

"These monthly reports are used by famers and the entire wheat industry," said Mark Schleusener, Illinois State Statistician, "and they rely solely on participation and response from Illinois producers." NASS encourages farmers to respond online at agcounts.usda.gov, or by mail. Prompt response helps reduce costs and save taxpayer dollars.



Beginning in June, additional information for the monthly forecasts will come from observations of plant growth and development in randomly selected fields across Illinois. "This data, collected directly from wheat fields, will help augment data collected from farmers," Mr. Schleusener explained.

The results of this survey will be kept confidential and will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified, as required by federal law. Results will be published in a series of monthly Crop Production reports, the first to be released on May 12, 2021.

For more information, call the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014 or email us at nassrfohlr@usda.gov.

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